United Nations S/2010/104

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2010
English
Original: French

Identical letters dated 23 February 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press release issued following the working visit conducted on 22 February 2010 by the facilitator of the inter-Ivorian direct dialogue, Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Paul Robert **Tiendrébéogo**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

10-25941 (E) 050310 080310

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 February 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Inter-Ivorian direct dialogue

Press release

1. On Monday, 22 February 2010, Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, facilitator of the inter-Ivorian direct dialogue, made a working visit to Abidjan in order to discuss with the main Ivorian political stakeholders the ways and means of resolving the current crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

2. During his visit, the facilitator held a series of meetings with the members of the Permanent framework for coordination (CPC): Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Guillaume Soro, Prime Minister and Head of Government, Mr. Henri Konan Bédié, Chairman of the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement démocratique africain (PDCI-RDA) and Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, Chairman of the Rassemblement des républicains (RDR). He also met with Mr. Y. J. Choi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, and with members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Côte d'Ivoire.

3. The talks with these various high-level officials essentially dealt with three items:

- The question of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI)
- The relaunching of the electoral process in order to draw up a new electoral timetable and manage the litigation on the provisional electoral list
- The establishment of a new Government

4. The Ivorian stakeholders and the representatives of the international community reiterated their desire to preserve the gains made during the electoral process and recognized the need to move it forward to its conclusion with the organization of open, free and transparent elections.

5. On the question of the Independent Electoral Commission, the facilitator and the Ivorian stakeholders agreed on the following:

- The structure of CEI will be maintained in accordance with the Pretoria Agreement
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of CEI will be replaced, by the political groups that nominated them
- The Bureau of CEI will be elected by 25 February 2010

6. With respect to the relaunching of the political process, the facilitator and the Ivorian stakeholders strongly recommended that the following measures should be implemented:

- Extension of the administrative and judicial litigation on the provisional electoral list for a period of 21 days ending on 21 March 2010 (1 to 21 March inclusive)
- Production of the final electoral list as of 22 March 2010
- Strict adherence to the modus operandi with respect to the administrative and judicial litigation on the provisional electoral list
- Review by the courts of judicial litigation that did not adhere to the modus operandi (written claims to local offices of the Independent Electoral Commission)
- Preparation of a new electoral timetable with a view to holding the first round of the presidential election in late April/early May 2010

7. The facilitator and the Ivorian stakeholders agreed that a Government would be established on 23 February 2010 comprising representatives of all the parties that were signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

8. The facilitator and the Ivorian stakeholders called for an end to demonstrations leading to the loss of human lives and the destruction of public and private property. In the interest of maintaining calm, they asked that measures be taken to restore dialogue and understanding.

9. At the end of his visit, the facilitator called on Ivorian politicians to step up their efforts to safeguard the Ouagadougou Political Agreement in order to consolidate peace, reconciliation and national unity in Côte d'Ivoire.

United Nations S/2010/105

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2010

Original: English

Twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) since the last report of the Secretary-General was issued on 2 November 2009 (S/2009/566).

2. I am pleased to report that since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), the situation between Lebanon and Israel remains stable, with no overt confrontation or conflict, even if there remains a degree of tension. Yet, although all parties remain committed to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), they have not so far progressed from the current state of cessation of hostilities to a permanent ceasefire, as called for in the resolution.

3. Overall, the situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remained stable during the reporting period and the cessation of hostilities continued to hold. There were nevertheless some violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and no discernible progress was achieved during the reporting period in the implementation of key aspects of the resolution.

4. In Lebanon, further to the parliamentary elections of 7 June 2009 and the consultations that ensued, a new Government of National Unity, headed by Saad Hariri as Prime Minister, was eventually formed on 9 November by means of a decree signed jointly by the Prime Minister and the President, Michel Sleiman. Parliament expressed its confidence in the new Government and its programme on 10 December with 122 votes, out of a total of 128 members of parliament.

5. The meetings held between the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar al-Assad, and Prime Minister Hariri in Damascus on 19 and 20 December marked an important milestone in the normalization of relations between the two countries. Senior Lebanese and Syrian officials informed my Special Coordinator that those relations would be based on mutual respect for their sovereignty. It was reported that the two leaders discussed a number of issues pertaining to bilateral relations, some of which have a bearing on Lebanon's obligations under resolution 1701 (2006).

10-25352 (E) 040310

Please recycle

II. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

6. Since my last report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) was issued, Lebanon's security agencies have continued to coordinate their investigations of alleged Israeli spying networks in Lebanon and, according to Government sources, have made at least one further arrest in this connection.

A. Situation in the UNIFIL area of operations

7. The situation in the area of operations remained generally quiet. The Governments of Lebanon and Israel maintained their commitment to the cessation of hostilities and the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

8. The Israel Defense Forces continued their occupation of the northern part of Ghajar village and an adjacent area of land north of the Blue Line, in violation of resolution 1701 (2006). Since November 2009, a number of discussions have taken place between UNIFIL and the Israeli authorities on the UNIFIL proposal to facilitate the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from the area (see S/2009/566, para. 15). In parallel, the new Government of Lebanon was reviewing the proposal as UNIFIL resumed discussions with its Lebanese counterparts.

9. Almost daily intrusions into Lebanese airspace by Israeli aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles continued. The Israeli overflights were conducted at a somewhat reduced level in November and December but were followed by a marked increase in the second half of the reporting period. All Israeli overflights of Lebanese territory constitute violations of Lebanese sovereignty and of resolution 1701 (2006). UNIFIL protested at all air violations and asked Israel to cease them immediately. Overflights inherently escalate tensions and increase the possibility of security incidents, as demonstrated on a few occasions when the Lebanese Armed Forces opened fire on Israeli aircraft intruding in Lebanese airspace. The Government of Lebanon also protested against the air violations and demanded that they stop without delay. The Government of Israel maintained that the overflights are necessary security measures, citing alleged lack of enforcement of the arms embargo.

10. On 26 December 2009, a UNIFIL night patrol south of Khiam (Sector East), after observing several men behaving suspiciously, discovered 250 kilograms of explosives. The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL inspected the explosives before the Lebanese Armed Forces confiscated them for further investigation. The investigation is ongoing. On 7 January 2010 the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me, expressed the belief of her Government that the types of explosives and manner in which they were deployed demonstrated that Hizbullah operatives had planted the explosives. The presence of unauthorized explosives in the area constitutes a violation of resolution 1701 (2006).

11. On 31 January, the Israel Defense Forces apprehended a Lebanese shepherd in the vicinity of United Nations position 4-34 in the Shab'a farms area. Owing to the lack of evidence on the ground and contradictory statements from the parties, the UNIFIL investigation was not able to determine the exact location of the incident and, consequently, remained inconclusive as to the nature of the Blue Line violation. In the early morning hours of 1 February, the shepherd was handed over to UNIFIL.

who, in turn, handed him over to Lebanese authorities. On 1 and 2 February, the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, in identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me, conveyed his Government's protest of what was termed the kidnapping of a Lebanese citizen by an Israeli patrol on Lebanese territory, that is, north of the Blue Line. On 22 January, two persons approached the wire fence surrounding Ghajar on the northern side from inside the village. Despite UNIFIL cautioning them and firing a warning shot, one of the individuals threw a bag across the fence and crossed the fence, managing to flee. The second individual withdrew into Ghajar village. A small number of minor ground violations of the Blue Line also occurred, mainly by farmers tending livestock or working in their fields, which straddle the Blue Line. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces troops in close proximity to the Blue Line continued to warn the local population of the position of the Line in an effort to prevent inadvertent violations.

12. On several occasions, UNIFIL observed civilians close to the Blue Line throwing stones at the Israeli technical fence. To prevent such incidents, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces increased their presence in places where the stone throwing occurred. In addition, at times, verbal abuse and threatening gestures were exchanged between the two sides across the Blue Line, involving both military personnel and civilians.

13. UNIFIL completed its investigations into the incident that occurred on 12 October 2009 in Tayr Falsay (Sector West), the two explosions that happened on 17 and 18 October in an area between Houla and Meiss el-Jebel (Sector East), and the rocket launch on 27 October from the general area of Houla (Sector East). The conclusions of the investigations confirmed the preliminary findings outlined in my last report (S/2009/566, paras. 13, 14 and 9, respectively). The UNIFIL investigation into the explosions near Houla was not able to determine when the Israel Defense Forces device was installed, nor how it was activated. Investigations by the Lebanese authorities are still under way into the seven rocket launching incidents between June 2007 and October 2009.

14. Good progress is being made on visibly marking the Blue Line, with small delays primarily due to inclement weather. In the current four sectors of the project, totalling 36.5 kilometres, 69 coordinates have been agreed; 40 markers have been installed (including one that was marked unilaterally by UNIFIL, with the agreement of the parties); 23 are under construction; and the coordinates of seven points are set to be measured on the ground with the parties. UNIFIL submitted to the parties a proposal for a fifth sector to be marked. Both parties restated the importance that they attach to the marking project, which is also underlined by the inadvertent crossings mentioned above (para. 11), and expressed their commitment to maintaining the momentum. UNIFIL demining teams support the project by clearing minefields and unexploded ordnance to allow access for measuring coordinates and construction of Blue Line markers.

15. Construction work on the first stage of the Blue Line road project, in which existing roads in the vicinity of the Blue Line are being linked by constructing 11 road connections, is ongoing, with UNIFIL engineering assets providing support to the Lebanese Armed Forces. To date, two links have been completed and a third is under construction.

16. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces maintained their respective installations and continued their daily operational activities, including UNIFIL helicopter patrols, at the same high levels of the previous reporting period. The two forces continued operating co-located checkpoints on the Litani River, as well as others at randomly selected locations in the area of operations. In addition, the two forces carried out an average of 15 counter-rocket-launching operations during each 24-hour period and daily coordinated foot patrols along the Blue Line. Efforts continued to further enhance the efficiency of the activities coordinated between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces. These included the review of the conduct of counter-rocket-launching operations, with a view to strengthening preventive measures and joint operational procedures between the two forces aimed at harmonizing the planning and execution of operational activities.

17. In response to occasional heightened security alerts, the two forces intensified their cooperation and coordinated activities. This included increased troop presence in sensitive parts of the area of operations, as well as intensified counter-rocket-launching activities. The Lebanese Armed Forces also increased the number of physical checks of vehicles and search rates during these periods of heightened tension. The transformation of all three Lebanese Armed Forces brigades from light to heavy has now been completed, and the Lebanese Armed Forces deployment in the UNIFIL area of operations comprises three heavy brigades, whose full strength is 6,400 troops.

18. During the reporting period, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces conducted a considerable number of exercises, mostly tactical, involving both forces. In addition, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces land and maritime forces were involved in an amphibious and an artillery exercise. Ongoing UNIFIL engagement in civil-military training courses for the Lebanese Armed Forces, followed by an on-the-job phase with a UNIFIL contingent, further enhanced the UNIFIL-Lebanese Armed Forces partnership. The Maritime Task Force also continued to provide regular training to the Lebanese naval forces at sea and on land.

19. The ongoing UNIFIL-Lebanese Armed Forces joint training and exercises contribute to enhancing the capacities of the Lebanese Army. Nevertheless, in order for the Lebanese Armed Forces to gradually assume greater security responsibility in the UNIFIL area of operations and the Lebanese territorial waters, it is essential for the Lebanese Armed Forces land and naval components to receive critically required equipment and technical support.

20. With minor exceptions, UNIFIL continued to exercise full freedom of movement throughout its area of operations, carrying out more than 10,000 patrols each month. A handful of the patrols were temporarily stopped by local civilians. Those incidents were brief and were resolved on the ground with the assistance of the Lebanese Armed Forces. In one serious incident on 23 January, a group of civilians temporarily obstructed the movement of a UNIFIL foot patrol in the area of Bint Jbeil (Sector West). The patrol leader asked three civilians to delete photographs that they had taken of the patrol and noted their vehicle's licence plate number when they refused to do so. Subsequently, the civilians mobilized a crowd of around 50 persons, some carrying baseball bats and steel bars and one armed with a knife, who blocked the patrol's movement. UNIFIL personnel fired three warning shots into the air, at which point the civilians moved back some metres and, after

further discussions, dispersed. A Lebanese Armed Forces patrol arrived at the scene and calmed the situation. No injuries resulted from the incident and the patrol resumed its activity. In addition, UNIFIL activities were monitored on occasion by civilians in various areas.

21. There were a number of instances when Lebanese civilians, mostly youths, threw stones at UNIFIL patrols. On 9 January, in the vicinity of Dayr Qanun an-Nahr, a group of civilians threw stones at UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces, causing damage to a number of vehicles. This incident occurred in the aftermath of an accident that resulted in the death of one civilian when two pieces of UNIFIL artillery equipment fell off Lebanese Armed Forces lorries. Lebanese Armed Forces calmed the situation. On another occasion, a group of three youngsters threw a piece of steel at a UNIFIL patrol, injuring a soldier.

22. With the exception of the incidents detailed above, the attitude of the local population towards UNIFIL continued to be positive as UNIFIL Civil Military Cooperation and Civil Affairs units maintained close contacts with local communities. The provision of humanitarian, infrastructural, capacity-building and vocational training support through the activities of troop-contributing countries and projects funded from the UNIFIL budget continued to strengthen the relations between UNIFIL and the population. Local authorities expressed some concern about road and property damage resulting from UNIFIL operational activities.

23. UNIFIL continued to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces in establishing an area between the Blue Line and the Litani River free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL, in accordance with resolution 1701 (2006). The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL continued to take intensive and coordinated measures, as described above, specifically aimed at ensuring that there are no armed elements in the area, discovering and removing all weapons and related materiel that may still be present, and preventing the possible smuggling of weapons across the Litani River.

24. The Government of Israel maintains that Hizbullah is continuing to build its military presence and capacity, largely north of the Litani River, but also inside the UNIFIL area of operations using, in particular, private houses in urban areas. In cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL immediately investigates any claims regarding the illegal presence of armed personnel or weapons in the area if specific information is received. However, according to its mandate, UNIFIL cannot search private houses and properties unless there is credible evidence of a violation of resolution 1701 (2006), including an imminent threat of hostile activity emanating from that specific location. The Lebanese Armed Forces Command reconfirmed that it will act immediately on receiving evidence of unauthorized armed personnel or weapons in the area and put a stop to any illegal activity in contravention of resolution 1701 (2006) and relevant Government decisions concerning the illegal presence of armed personnel and weapons south of the Litani River. To date, UNIFIL has neither been provided with, nor found, evidence of the smuggling of arms into its area of operations. Furthermore, UNIFIL routinely checked previously discovered former facilities of armed elements in the area of operations, including bunkers and caves, but did not find indications that they had been reactivated or any evidence of new military infrastructure in its area of operations.

25. As stated in earlier reports, establishing an area free of unauthorized weapons is a long-term endeavour. The rocket attack of 27 October (see S/2009/566, para. 9) again demonstrated that there continue to be weapons and hostile armed elements ready to use them within the UNIFIL area of operations. The discovery of a significant amount of explosives south of Khiam on 26 December is also an indication of the presence of unauthorized explosives and assets in the area of operations. This highlights the need for UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces to remain focused on further enhancing security control in the area.

26. On numerous occasions, UNIFIL encountered civilians armed with hunting rifles in the area of operations, despite the Government ban on hunting and the carrying of weapons inside the area, which the Government reissued late in October 2009. The Lebanese Armed Forces continued to remind the local population of the ban. Although the Lebanese Armed Forces arrested numerous individuals and confiscated their weapons, some managed to flee. In addition, armed persons and weapons are present inside the Palestinian refugee camps in the area.

27. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force continued to conduct maritime interdiction operations in the area of maritime operations, as well as training of the Lebanese naval forces. The Lebanese navy contributed by hailing vessels approaching Lebanese ports while the Lebanese Coastal Radar Organization successfully contributed to compiling a recognized maritime surface picture of the Lebanese territorial waters. However, the Lebanese navy remains significantly restricted in its operations as a result of the lack of vessels capable of staying at sea during unfavourable weather conditions and for prolonged periods. This lack of assets restricts the Lebanese navy's further development, including an expansion of its participation in maritime interdiction operations. Since the start of its mission in October 2006, the Maritime Task Force has hailed and queried over 27,600 ships. Since my last report, 87 additional inspections were carried out on vessels identified as suspicious, increasing the total number to 477 since the inception of the Maritime Task Force. Of these, the Lebanese navy initiated 29, the Maritime Task Force itself initiating the remaining 67. Lebanese navy and Customs officials inspected the vessels to verify that there were no unauthorized arms or related materiel on board and cleared all of them.

28. On three occasions during the reporting period, the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force responded to requests to assist in search and rescue operations. On 11 and 17 December 2009, the Maritime Task Force, in close coordination and cooperation with the Lebanese navy and the Cyprus Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, conducted two search and rescue operations for vessels that capsized during severe weather conditions. On 11 December, in response to a distress call from a merchant vessel outside the UNIFIL area of maritime operations, approximately opposite Tyre, UNIFIL sent the Maritime Task Force vessel which was operating closest to the location to the site of the incident. UNIFIL Maritime Task Force personnel rescued one person; five others were rescued by the Israel Defense Forces navy. Between 17 and 20 December, the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force again conducted search and rescue operations for crew members of a capsized vessel in the waters opposite Tripoli harbour. The Task Force provided the on-scene command for the operation, which also involved Lebanese naval assets. Task Force vessels rescued 34 survivors; six additional survivors were rescued by the Lebanese Armed Forces and other participants in the operation. Following the crash of an aircraft on 25 January shortly after take-off from the international airport in Beirut, UNIFIL Maritime Task

Force units provided critical support to the Lebanese authorities in the search and rescue operations, which lasted 72 hours. Initially, the Task Force commanded and coordinated the operations on scene.

29. Incidents along the line of buoys continued several times per week. Israel Defense Forces navy units frequently dropped depth charges and fired flares and warning shots along the line of buoys. The Israel Defense Forces stated that these were security measures against Lebanese fishing vessels approaching or crossing the line of buoys. While UNIFIL has no mandate to monitor the line of buoys, which the Government of Israel installed unilaterally and which the Government of Lebanon does not recognize, the issue has been raised in the tripartite forum, and the Force Commander has expressed his concern that the incidents contribute to increasing tension between the parties.

B. Security and liaison arrangements

30. The tripartite meetings, chaired by the Force Commander with senior representatives of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces, continued to serve as an indispensable instrument of UNIFIL liaison and coordination and an essential tool to address security and military operational issues and build confidence between the parties. Violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and other incidents were discussed at the meetings, as were the UNIFIL investigation reports on the Tayr Falsay incident, the Houla explosions, and the rocket launches of 11 September and 27 October. Both parties continued to demonstrate a constructive and flexible approach to the resolution of outstanding issues. This approach led to practical solutions to a number of contentious issues, most notably in respect of the road construction works in Kafr Kila (Sector East) and the cultivation of olive orchards south of the Blue Line by Lebanese farmers in Blida (Sector East). The parties reiterated their commitment to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the significance of the tripartite meetings in enhancing security and stability. The parties continued to utilize the tripartite mechanism to constructively address military and security issues under discussion.

31. Regular interaction between UNIFIL and Lebanese Armed Forces senior command ensured a well-coordinated strategic approach to the activities of the two forces. Daily liaison at various levels remained close, facilitating efficient coordination at the operational and tactical levels. The Lebanese Armed Forces maintained liaison officers at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura and at Sector headquarters, while UNIFIL continued to have a liaison officer stationed with Lebanese Armed Forces headquarters southern Lebanon, in Tyre.

32. Coordination and liaison with the Israel Defense Forces remained efficient. The UNIFIL Force Commander maintained effective relations with his Israel Defense Forces counterparts, as well as with other senior Israeli authorities. UNIFIL continued to have two liaison officers at the Israel Defense Forces Northern Command headquarters in Zefat. No progress has been made during the reporting period on the establishment of the UNIFIL office in Tel Aviv.

C. Disarming armed groups

33. In the aftermath of the discovery by UNIFIL of 250 kilograms of explosives in UNIFIL Sector East, near Khiam, the Government of Israel, in the letter dated 7 January from its Permanent Representative to the United Nations referred to above (para. 10), reiterated its position concerning Hizbullah's armament, military presence and capacity in Lebanon. It also asserted that the explosives were possibly industrially produced in Iran (Islamic Republic of) or the Syrian Arab Republic, and noted that it regarded the Government of Lebanon as fully responsible for all such violations and any resulting implications.

34. As reported previously, Hizbullah continues to maintain a substantial military capacity distinct from that of the Lebanese State, in violation of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006). In interviews and statements issued during the reporting period, Hizbullah leaders continued to declare publicly that Hizbullah will use its arsenal to defend itself if attacked. Hizbullah leaders maintain that Hizbullah continues to abide by the requirements of resolution 1701 (2006) and deny allegations that Hizbullah has transferred weapons south of the Litani River.

35. The issue of Hizbullah's weapons became a major point of debate in the preparation of the Lebanese Government's ministerial statement. In the final version, the Government of Lebanon asserts "the right of Lebanon, through its people, army and resistance, to liberate or recover the Shab'a Farms, Kfarshouba Hills and the Lebanese part of the occupied village of Ghajar and to defend Lebanon against any assault and safeguard its right to its water resources, by all legitimate and available means". The ministerial statement also reaffirms the Government's "commitment to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) with all its clauses". In this context, I note that the Security Council in resolution 1701 (2006) called for the full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords, and of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006), which require the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, so that, pursuant to the Lebanese Cabinet decision of 27 July 2006, there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State.

36. I continue to believe that the disarmament of Hizbullah and other militias should take place through a Lebanese-led political process. In this connection, Lebanon's leaders had mandated the National Dialogue, under President Sleiman's leadership, to agree on a national defence strategy. The National Dialogue has not yet reconvened since the parliamentary elections were held on 7 June 2009. President Sleiman has conveyed to my Special Coordinator his intention to reconvene the National Dialogue soon.

37. The presence of Palestinian and other armed groups continues to pose a threat to the stability of Lebanon and challenges Lebanese sovereignty. I continue to be concerned about the maintenance of paramilitary infrastructure on Lebanese territory by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada, as it encroaches on Lebanese sovereignty. The fact that some of those military bases straddle the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic poses an added challenge for the control of the border. I have called upon the Government of Lebanon to dismantle those bases and on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with these efforts. On 17 January 2010, Fatah al-Intifada's Secretary-General, Abu Musa, who visited Lebanon for the first time in

28 years, publicly rejected any attempt to dismantle the Palestinian military bases along the Lebanese-Syrian border and in Naameh, south of Beirut. The statement of the leader of Fatah al-Intifada triggered strong reactions from Lebanese officials, who described it as a challenge to the Government of Lebanon and the decisions taken in the National Dialogue. The Lebanese Cabinet reaffirmed that Lebanon's sovereignty was non-negotiable and that no Palestinian arms should be outside the camps. Two days later, Abu Musa clarified that his group was ready to engage in a dialogue to reach agreement on Palestinian arms outside the camp with the Lebanese Government or State. In this context, it is also worth highlighting that, in its ministerial statement, the new Government stressed "the need to implement the points agreed upon during the National Dialogue, to eliminate Palestinian weapons outside the camps and deal with the issues relating to security and arms inside the camps". This refers to decisions taken earlier in the National Dialogue process in 2006.

38. On 15 February clashes between members of Fatah and members of radical Islamist movements broke out in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Hilweh, near Saida. One person was killed as a result of the fighting before calm was restored to the camp. This incident disrupted an otherwise generally calm situation in the camps. Lebanese authorities have continued to welcome cooperation arrangements with Palestinian authorities on security issues in the camps. On 26 December 2009, a bomb exploded in a facility used by Hamas and located in the southern Beirut suburb of Haret Hraik. At least two men identified as bodyguards of Osama Hamdan, a representative of the Hamas political bureau, were killed in the incident. While the investigation by the Lebanese authorities is still ongoing, security sources have indicated that the explosion was caused by an accident.

D. Arms embargo

39. One of the important provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) is that the Government of Lebanon secure its borders and other entry into points so as to prevent the entry into Lebanon without its consent of arms or related material. In the resolution, the Security Council further decided that all States were to prevent the sale or supply of arms and related material to entities or individuals in Lebanon by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels or aircraft. The Government of Lebanon has not reported any breach of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1701 (2006) during the reporting period. Government officials nevertheless acknowledged the porous nature of the border and the possibility that arms smuggling occurs. During my Special Coordinator's visit to Israel on 24 and 25 January, the Government of Israel reiterated its assertions of significant breaches of the arms embargo across the border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. The United Nations takes these assertions seriously but is not in a position to verify this information independently.

40. The effective management of the borders of Lebanon continues to be affected by the lack of demarcation of the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and by the continued presence of Palestinian military bases which straddle the border between the two countries. During the reporting period, the Government of Lebanon continued to make efforts to improve the control over its borders. According to Lebanese officials, bilateral cooperation between the security agencies of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic has improved during the reporting period.

focusing on curbing security threats affecting both countries. Lebanese and Syrian officials have confirmed to my Special Coordinator that the two States have agreed to start addressing the question of management of their common border within a comprehensive framework of bilateral cooperation.

41. The Common Border Force, comprising some 700 staff from four Lebanese security agencies (Armed Forces, Internal Security Forces, General Security and Customs), pursued its operations along the northern border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Lebanese authorities reported the seizure by the Common Border Force of some commercial goods being smuggled into Lebanon.

42. The Lebanese Armed Forces have deployed approximately 500 troops to ensure control of the next stretch of the border to the east, up from 350 troops in the reporting period. The Internal Security Forces also increased their numbers in this area, from 100 to 200, and placed them under a single united command, led by a Lebanese Armed Forces General. These 700 troops will be part of the future Common Border Force II, which will come into existence once General Security and Customs also assign personnel to it. In order to become fully operational, the Common Border Force II will require equipment and the realization of necessary infrastructure works in its area of responsibility, for which the Government has requested assistance from the international community.

43. On 2 February, Ambassadors from donor countries, led by my Special Coordinator, met Prime Minister Hariri, who was accompanied by five members of his Cabinet, to reiterate the support of the international community for Lebanon's border management initiatives and to request that current efforts be developed into a broader strategy for border management, to be adopted by the Government. The Prime Minister welcomed this suggestion and undertook to appoint a senior official to coordinate Government action to oversee a comprehensive border strategy.

E. Landmines and cluster bombs

44. The Lebanese Mine Action Centre continues to coordinate all humanitarian clearance operations in southern Lebanon from its Regional Mine Action Centre in Nabatiye. The United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre maintains a liaison and quality assurance function between UNIFIL and the Regional Centre.

45. The Regional Mine Action Centre in Nabatiye has completed its field assessment of the technical strike data received from Israel for the area south of the Litani River. Of the 116 potential strike locations south of the Litani, 26 have been confirmed as contaminated strike locations, bringing the total number of locations identified to date to 1,113. The Lebanese Armed Forces have given authorization in general for future clearance operations of the landmines north of the road currently being built along the Blue Line.

46. During the reporting period, two incidents occurred involving unexploded ordnance from the 2006 conflict, including cluster munitions, and resulting in two injuries. The incidents bring the total number of fatalities and injuries among civilians since the end of the conflict to 28 and 248, respectively, and among demining personnel resulting from clearance activities since August 2006 to 59, with 14 fatalities and 45 injuries.

F. Delineation of borders

47. Following the meetings between the President of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Prime Minister of Lebanon in Damascus on 19 and 20 December 2009, preparations have been undertaken to resume bilateral discussions on the delineation and demarcation of the common border through the work of the Lebanese-Syrian committee that Presidents Al-Assad and Sleiman decided to reactivate at their summit in August 2008. The final determination of the border would be important for its management and for the maintenance of good-neighbourliness between the two countries, in fulfilment of resolutions 1680 (2006) and 1701 (2006).

48. There continues to be no progress on the issue of the Shab'a Farms area. In spite of my repeated requests, I have not received any responses from the Syrian Arab Republic or Israel to the provisional definition of the area contained in my report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), issued on 30 October 2007 (S/2007/641). I encourage them to submit such reactions to the United Nations Secretariat. During my Special Coordinator's visit to Damascus on 18 February, Syrian officials reiterated to him that the Syrian Arab Republic considers the Farms to be Lebanese.

III. Security and safety of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

49. The safety and security of UNIFIL staff remains a priority. Notwithstanding the obligation of all parties to ensure the safety and security of UNIFIL and the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon for maintaining law and order, UNIFIL continued to focus on mitigating risks to its personnel, assets and installations while ensuring implementation of its mandate. UNIFIL and the Lebanese authorities and Lebanese Armed Forces maintain cooperation and joint efforts to ensure that security threats to UNIFIL, which the mission received on a number of occasions during the reporting period, are addressed appropriately. In addition to electronic countermeasures to jam explosive devices, UNIFIL can rely on micro-unmanned aerial vehicles as a critical risk-mitigating asset to be utilized at the discretion of the Force Commander to enhance Force protection and civilian staff security.

50. In November 2009, the Lebanese Armed Forces arrested a militant who allegedly has been linked to the rocket attacks of January and February 2009, which were launched from the UNIFIL area of operations. He had already been sentenced in absentia for the attack near Saida in January 2008. The individual will be retried for that attack and is also scheduled to appear in the military court in connection with several other cases. The case of the attack on UNIFIL on 24 June 2007, in which six peacekeepers serving with the Spanish contingent were killed, remains with the preliminary investigative judge in the military court.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

51. As at 15 January 2010, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 11,658, of whom 489 were women. The mission has 319 international and 660 national civilian staff members, of whom 87 and 169, respectively, are women. UNIFIL is also supported by 53 United Nations Truce Supervision Organization military observers of the Observer Group Lebanon, of whom four are women. As previously foreseen, the multirole logistics company from Denmark arrived and, starting in December, succeeded the Polish logistics and maintenance company. The withdrawal of the Polish contingent was completed by mid-December. An additional Indonesian company deployed in UNIFIL late in October, while a Nepalese company is now expected in the second half of April 2010. In addition, nine paramedics from Indonesia deployed to UNIFIL as part of the process of upgrading the UNIFIL hospital at the Naqoura headquarters from Level 1 to Level 2. The Government of Belgium informed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that it will withdraw its construction engineer assets by the end of February 2010.

52. On 30 November, Italy assumed command of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force from Germany. The Maritime Task Force continued to operate at a reduced strength of six to seven vessels, with a composition of one to two frigates, one corvette, three fast patrol boats and one supply vessel, complemented by two helicopters. This strength is considered less than sufficient, particularly during periods of bad weather when only the larger vessels can remain at sea. With the expected arrival of a frigate and a patrol boat from Bangladesh late in April, the Maritime Task Force will be augmented with critically required capacities.

53. Further to my previous report (S/2009/566, para. 58), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIFIL completed a joint review of the operational capacity of UNIFIL, including its force structure, assets and requirements, on land and at sea. The conclusions of the review were conveyed to the Security Council in my letter of 16 February 2010 (see S/2010/86).

54. On 28 January the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Lieutenant General Claudio Graziano, handed over the command of UNIFIL to Major General Alberto Asarta Cuevas of Spain.

V. Observations

55. I am pleased to report that, three and a half years after the Security Council adopted resolution 1701 (2006), the parties maintain their commitment to it. The continued respect of the cessation of hostilities by Israel and Lebanon has provided for the most stable period in the relationship between the two countries for decades. Yet the situation remains fragile. This fragility is further compounded by the use of increasingly strident and bellicose rhetoric warning of renewed conflict, the expanded nature of any renewed confrontation, and the application of the military lessons that both sides have learned from the 2006 conflict. All such rhetoric raises tensions and should be avoided. It also contravenes the spirit of resolution 1701 (2006).

56. While I am pleased that the parties maintained their commitment to resolution 1701 (2006) and the cessation of hostilities, more work remains to be done in implementing the outstanding elements of the resolution. The new strategic environment and the relative stability prevailing in southern Lebanon that UNIFIL, in cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces, has helped to establish, together with the favourable conditions prevailing in the country as a whole, can form the foundation for a process towards achieving a permanent ceasefire. As I have stated in previous reports, the opportunity that the UNIFIL presence has created cannot be maintained indefinitely. It is the responsibility of the parties to focus on all outstanding issues in order to reach a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution as envisaged in resolution 1701 (2006). A permanent ceasefire would assist in further stabilizing the situation by providing for a defined set of obligations of each party and establishing a stable mechanism to monitor compliance by the parties with the agreement and address potential violations through dialogue, rather than force, thus lessening the threat of an unwanted military escalation. I urge the parties to seize the opportunity to make tangible progress in the coming months. The United Nations, through the work of my Special Coordinator for Lebanon and UNIFIL, stands ready to continue to assist the parties towards this objective.

57. I am concerned that the occupation by Israeli forces of the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line continues. The resumption of discussions between UNIFIL and Israeli officials in December 2009 is a positive sign. I call on the Government of Israel, in accordance with its obligations under resolution 1701 (2006), to complete its withdrawal from the area without further delay. UNIFIL stands ready to facilitate the withdrawal.

58. The Israel Defense Forces continue to violate Lebanon's sovereignty and resolution 1701 (2006) on an almost daily basis through overflights of Lebanese territory. These overflights create a tense situation and carry the potential of provoking an incident which could rapidly escalate. I once again call on Israel to respect Lebanon's sovereignty by ceasing immediately all overflights of Lebanese territory.

59. I believe that the election in Lebanon of a new Parliament in June 2009 and the appointment during this reporting period of a Government of National Unity provide new opportunities for Lebanon to tackle the manifold political, security, economic and social challenges facing the country. It is my conviction that implementation of the agenda of reform contained in the ministerial statement will result in a strengthened State that is better able to exercise its sovereignty and authority over its territory, as called for in resolution 1701 (2006). I call on the international community to continue to support the Government of Lebanon.

60. The discovery by UNIFIL of weapons in its area of operations is evidence of a clear violation of resolution 1701 (2006). It underlines the fact that establishing a zone free of unauthorized weapons and armed personnel between the Litani River and the Blue Line, as required by resolution 1701 (2006), remains a long-term endeavour. Furthermore, the United Nations regularly receives reports to the effect that Hizbullah has re-established its arsenal and military capabilities, within and outside the UNIFIL area of operations, a fact not disavowed by Hizbullah with regard to Lebanon north of the Litani River. With regard to the latter assertion, as this is outside the UNIFIL area of operations, the United Nations does not have the means to verify independently this information. Leaders of Hizbullah, however,

have stated publicly that their organization possesses significant military capabilities to be used for defensive purposes.

61. The Lebanese Armed Forces, in partnership with UNIFIL, play a key role in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). They continued to act with strong commitment and resolve, and that capacity has been gradually strengthened with the assistance of international donors. I am grateful to those countries that are helping to equip and train the Lebanese Armed Forces, including the navy, and I urge the international community to continue this critically required support to Lebanese Armed Forces capacity-building. This support is essential if the Lebanese Armed Forces are to be able to assume effective responsibility for security over the area of UNIFIL operations and the maritime entry points into Lebanon in the future.

62. The joint technical review (see S/2010/86) puts forward recommendations to enhance the operational effectiveness of UNIFIL by creating a more task-oriented, mobile and flexible force posture. The review also highlights the need for the formalization of a regular strategic dialogue mechanism between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces to carry out analyses of ground forces and maritime assets, and set a series of benchmarks reflecting the correlation between the capacities and responsibilities of UNIFIL and the capacities of the Lebanese Armed Forces, as well as taking into account the security situation in the area. I support the findings of the technical review and have asked the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIFIL to proceed with the implementation.

63. Control by Lebanon over its borders is an important obligation under resolution 1701 (2006), the implementation of which requires both political commitment and strengthened capacity. I remain concerned about the ongoing reports that point to breaches of the arms embargo, which would be violations of resolution 1701 (2006). I am encouraged by the efforts that are being gradually undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to control its borders, and in particular by the Prime Minister's commitment to developing a comprehensive border strategy for Lebanon, as called for by the Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team. I am grateful to Member States that provide assistance to increase Lebanon's border management capacity and call upon the international community to support implementation of Lebanon's comprehensive border strategy in the future. I believe that the marked improvement of relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic creates a propitious environment for progress to be made with regard to the management of their common border, and also its delineation and demarcation. I look forward to concrete steps in this respect to be taken by the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic in coming months.

64. I also intend to continue my diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the issue of the Shab'a Farms area. I once again call upon Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to submit their responses to the provisional definition of the Shab'a Farms area that I had provided on the basis of the best available information.

65. The presence of armed groups in Lebanon operating outside the control of the State constitutes a challenge to the ability of the State to exercise its full sovereignty and control over its territory in accordance with resolution 1701 (2006) and remains a matter of concern to me. As I have stated before, I believe that the disarmament of armed groups should be carried out through a Lebanese-led political process. I therefore call upon the President of Lebanon to reconvene the National Dialogue to further discussions on a national defence strategy, with a view to forging a national

consensus on this key issue. I also note that the new Government in Lebanon has declared its commitment to implementing decisions taken by the National Dialogue in 2006 and 2009 to disarm Palestinian groups outside the camps, and to address the issue of arms inside the official refugee camps. I call upon the Government of Lebanon to take measures to this effect.

66. The situation of Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon remains a subject of concern, including with regard to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). While I commend the cooperation on security matters between Lebanese agencies and Palestinian authorities inside the camps, further progress should be made to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees. I believe that more efforts need to be made in this respect, whist ensuring the peaceful coexistence of the Lebanese and Palestinian communities and without prejudice to the settlement of the Palestinian refugee question in the context of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement. I therefore call upon the Government of Lebanon and the donor community to make concerted efforts in addressing the dire socio-economic situation of the Palestinian refugee community as a matter of priority.

67. The situation prevailing between Lebanon and Israel, which is of the utmost relevance to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), is inevitably affected by regional dynamics. While I call upon the parties to continue to work resolutely on the implementation of their obligations under resolution 1701 (2006) and to move towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution, I believe that the pace at which progress will be achieved in this respect will be influenced by other regional developments. In particular, the absence of progress on the Middle East peace process has a negative impact on the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and on the stability of Lebanon.

68. I call on both parties to take the necessary steps to achieve what Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) defines as a long-term solution that would govern their relations. The achievement of that solution cannot and should not be dissociated from the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1515 (2003). I call upon the parties and upon all Member States to work decisively towards this goal.

69. I would like to express my appreciation to General Graziano for his exemplary leadership and dedicated service in UNIFIL over the past three challenging years. I commend General Graziano for successfully maintaining constructive relations with both the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces. His efforts have contributed to building confidence with the parties and enhancing stability in southern Lebanon. I have full confidence that UNIFIL will continue to carry out its mission effectively under the leadership of General Asarta.

United Nations

S/2010/106

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2010

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1876 (2009), by which the Council requested me to submit a written report every four months on the progress made in establishing the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and in implementing the resolution. The report covers developments since my previous report (S/2009/552), dated 22 October 2009 and covering the period until 15 February 2010, with a particular focus on efforts to normalize the functioning of State institutions and on preparations for the national conference designed to promote reconciliation in the country.

II. Political developments

2. The period under review was relatively calm, as State institutions endeavoured to implement the Government's programme. The President of Guinea-Bissau, Malam Bacai Sanha, issued two decrees on 28 October 2009 changing the structure of the Government and appointing a new cabinet that has been streamlined from 21 ministers to 18. The cabinet, which includes five women, was sworn in on 29 October.

3. In his address at the opening of the 2009-2010 legislative session held on 3 November 2009, President Sanha called for a national stability pact and for the revision of the Constitution. He also called for a comprehensive reform of the State and its institutions, beyond the current focus on public administration and the security sector. In addition, he called for the establishment of a council of traditional leaders.

4. On 3 November, President Sanha appointed Amine Saad as Prosecutor General of Guinea-Bissau, to succeed Luis Manuel Cabral. In December 2009, the new Prosecutor General opened an investigation into the alleged involvement of senior officials of the Ministry of Fisheries in corrupt practices, illegal concessions of fishing licences and financial mismanagement. Various senior officials, including the former Minister of Fisheries, were questioned during the investigations.

10-24736 (E) 010310

Please recycle

Subsequently, on 15 February 2010, the former Minister was relieved of his new duties as the Minister of Agriculture.

5. On 14 January 2010, the Council of Ministers reviewed the audit report on the Customs Department in Bissau, where more than CFAF 1 billion (approximately $2.2 million) was allegedly unaccounted for. The Council recommended that the Minister of Finance validate the audit report and, if necessary, refer the matter to the Office of the Prosecutor General. The Council also called on the Inspectorates of the Ministries of Finance and Commerce to join forces to fight fraud and tax evasion.

6. In his New Year's address to the nation, President Sanha called for change and a move away from the negative culture of machismo and mistrust to a culture of peace, knowledge, work and development. He underscored the need to restore trust among State institutions, based on the Constitution and strict respect for the principle of separation of powers, while maintaining interdependence and solidarity. President Sanha commended the Government for its efforts to fight corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime, and enumerated the indications of progress made with regard to security sector, public administration and fiscal reforms.

7. For its part, the National Assembly, on 23 November, discussed a report supposedly prepared and made public by the Military Information and Security Division of the Armed Forces General Staff. The report claimed that certain parliamentarians from the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) had posed a risk to internal stability and warned that internal divisions within PAIGC could poison relations between the Prime Minister, Carlos Gomes Junior, and President Sanha. Parliamentarians voiced concern about the role of military intelligence in politics, and the Prosecutor General called on those cited in the report to remain calm. On 30 November, he summoned the Director of Military Information who, at that time, also served as interim Deputy Director of State Information Services of the Ministry of Interior, to discuss the report.

8. Prior to the convening of the extraordinary session of the National Assembly to discuss the 2010 State budget, the Government, the PAIGC Central Committee and PAIGC parliamentarians held meetings to discuss their differences and to harmonize their positions. On 7 December, the National Assembly approved the 2010 State budget by 61 votes in favour, with 21 abstentions from the Social Renewal Party (PRS) of former President Mohamed Yalá.

9. The National Assembly continued its efforts towards organizing the national conference on the theme "Towards the consolidation of peace and development". Responding to concerns about the need to make the national conference as inclusive as possible, the technical committee established to prepare for the event was enlarged to include members from civil society organizations. The technical committee met from 15 to 17 January 2010 to harmonize the National Assembly's initiative with other civil society dialogue initiatives. At the request of the Speaker of the National Assembly, two officers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIOGBIS are representing the United Nations in the technical committee and providing support, as appropriate. In addition, the Department of Political Affairs is in the process of deploying a dialogue and reconciliation consultant to UNIOGBIS to provide expertise in technical preparations for the national conference and the dialogue process as a whole.

10. Within the framework of the declaration of 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation, UNOGBIS funded five cultural events, from 22 November to 12 December, in the towns of Mansôa, Canchungo, Buba and Bafatá, and in the capital, Bissau, highlighting respect and tolerance for diversity and reconciliation.

11. The *Voz di Paz* (Voice of Peace) participatory dialogue programme concluded the regional validation of the results of its 10-month grass-roots consultations held in 2008 in various areas of the country. The programme also organized a series of activities linked to the validation exercise within the armed forces. The results of the consultations were considered at a conference with the Guinea-Bissau diaspora in Lisbon in November 2009. Following identification of the most important causes of conflict in Guinea-Bissau, a new phase will be launched to focus on an in-depth study into these causes.

12. Within the framework of its project on building national capacities for dialogue and collaborative decision-making in Guinea-Bissau, UNDP organized a training workshop in Bissau from 16 to 20 November 2009 on ethics and reporting in sensitive environments for 19 national journalists. It also supported the establishment of a national youth platform for inter-ethnic dialogue and held a strategic planning workshop from 24 to 27 November to enable the platform to draw up an action plan for 2010.

III. Military aspects

13. On 28 December 2009, Bubo Na Tchuto returned clandestinely from the Gambia, where he had been in exile since his flight from Guinea-Bissau, following accusations of involvement in a coup attempt in August 2008. On the same day, the former Navy Chief entered United Nations premises uninvited and requested protection. He stated that he was fearing for his life and wanted to face justice to clear his name of accusations of plotting a coup. When contacted by the United Nations, the Government indicated that it lacked the capacity to try Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, preferring instead to return him to the Gambia. The Government argued that his presence in the country could be disruptive to the efforts to maintain peace and stability in the country.

14. My Special Representative subsequently facilitated consultations between the national authorities and Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, with a view to reaching an agreement on his voluntary and peaceful departure from the United Nations premises. On 8 January 2010, an agreement was signed between the United Nations and the national authorities. Under the terms of the agreement, both parties recognized their obligations under international law, including respect for the sovereignty of Guinea-Bissau, recognition of the responsibility of the Government for the promotion of the rule of law and due legal process, as well as the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights. Consultations continue, under the facilitation of my Special Representative, between the Government delegation and Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto for the latter's voluntary departure from the United Nations compound.

15. The Chief of General Staff, Zamora Induta, and his Deputy, António N'djai, were sworn in on 27 October 2009. They were promoted from Navy Captain to Vice Admiral and from Colonel to Major General, respectively, to correspond to their new functions. At the swearing-in ceremony, President Sanha stressed that the new

military leadership needed to continue the process of building a modern and disciplined force that would be true to its republican ideals and be subordinate to the civilian authorities.

16. On regional security issues, a meeting on border issues between ministerial delegations from Guinea-Bissau and Senegal was held in Bissau on 23 October. The meeting was prompted by renewed fighting in the Senegalese region of Casamance, and the reported displacement of border markers along the demarcation line between the two countries. Both countries agreed to revive a joint cooperation commission and, among other measures, to create a joint commission to survey the demarcation line and ensure that the border markers were in place. A meeting of the joint commission scheduled for 7 January 2010 was postponed to a date yet to be announced.

17. On 25 November 2009, the Minister of Defence launched a pilot project for the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in Bairro Militar, the largest suburb in Bissau. The $60,000 pilot project, managed by the National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, is funded by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as the small arms programme of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In addition, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) funded a two-day training workshop, from 19 to 20 November 2009, for 50 youth peace workers from Bairro Militar who were involved in an awareness-raising campaign on the pilot project. The ongoing pilot project, the first of its kind in an urban area, has garnered the support of key community leaders.

IV. Security sector reform

18. During the reporting period, progress was made to improve security sector reform coordination mechanisms. The Council of Ministers, in December 2009, approved key draft legal instruments prepared with the assistance of the European Union (EU) mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. The approved documents included, among others, a draft bill on security sector reform and a decree on a pension fund for defence sector personnel. At the same time, the Ministries of Interior and Defence reached a compromise on the creation of a 1,700-strong new entity, with military status and police functions, called the "Guarda Nacional". The Speaker of the National Assembly has indicated to my Special Representative that the instruments will be discussed by the National Assembly in the first quarter of 2010. A draft pension fund scheme for defence sector personnel was approved by the Government on 6 November 2009, and a decree on the same matter was issued on 19 December. National stakeholders have initiated technical consultations on setting up a separate pension fund for security sector personnel.

19. At a meeting held on 27 November, the National Security Sector Reform Steering Committee decided to review the national security sector reform structures. The Inter-Ministerial Committee and the Steering Committee were maintained. However, the Technical Coordination Committee was formally abolished, and its functions have since been absorbed by a streamlined permanent secretariat, which will provide technical, organizational and administrative support to the Steering Committee. As part of the preparations for a security sector reform donor

conference to be held later in the year, a UNDP consultant has been providing technical support to the secretariat of the Steering Committee in order to start identifying key project categories. The Security Sector Reform Section of UNIOGBIS includes two security sector reform positions dedicated to assisting the Government and the permanent secretariat with planning, evaluation, review and implementation of a holistic security sector reform programme. In addition, the Security Sector Reform Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will assist UNIOGBIS in the preparation of a strategic workplan to support national partners in security sector management.

20. A meeting of Guinea-Bissau's security sector reform international partners was held on 22 October at UNOGBIS headquarters to discuss ways of enhancing the coordination of international technical and financial support for the country's security sector reform process. The meeting agreed that UNIOGBIS, in close collaboration with the EU security sector reform mission and bilateral partners, would update and enhance an existing matrix on international support to security sector reform. The matrix is a useful coordination tool, which provides data on donor technical and financial support to the security sector reform programme and allows partners to identify existing technical and financial gaps in their support.

21. On 9 November, my Special Representative participated in an informal meeting in Brussels organized by EU, with representatives from the EU Council secretariat, the European Commission, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations. Participants reached a common understanding on security sector reform challenges and agreed on avenues for cooperation with international partners and mechanisms for coordinating EU/AU/United Nations support to Guinea-Bissau on security sector reform, within the scope of Security Council resolution 1876 (2009). The meeting was followed by a coordination meeting of the United Nations, EU and ECOWAS in Bissau on 17 November, at which participants agreed to enhance coordination through the adoption of a common approach on security sector reform issues in consultation with the national authorities.

22. A delegation from the European Council and the European Commission visited Guinea-Bissau from 30 November to 4 December 2009 to prepare a strategic analysis of the future EU cooperation framework, with a special focus on the security sector reform process. In early December, my Special Representative met with an EU/United Nations strategic review mission visiting Bissau. Discussions focused on the policy and technical aspects of a future EU/United Nations cooperation and coordination framework on security sector reform, including scenarios for possible complementarities of efforts beyond 31 May 2010, when the mandate of the EU security sector reform mission is scheduled to end.

23. The Portuguese technical cooperation mission provided basic training to 60 officers from the Public Order Police and to 160 officers from the Judiciary Police in October 2009. Additionally, 20 officers from the Judiciary Police were sent to Brazil in November for further training, and another 40 officers participated in a training workshop on high-risk investigations, organized by the Government of France in December. UNOGBIS conducted a training workshop on human rights, code of conduct and the use of force for 18 police agents in the region of Tombali on 27 October 2009. Another 15 police officers participated in a seminar on protection of women and children, organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on 17 and 18 December 2009, with technical support from the UNOGBIS police unit.

V. Drug trafficking and organized crime

24. Although no major drug seizures were reported in Guinea-Bissau during the reporting period, unconfirmed reports continued to suggest that smuggling might be continuing by air and sea through the islands of the Bijagós archipelago, which currently lacks law enforcement capacity and infrastructure, as well as an effective means of communication and transportation with the Guinea-Bissau mainland.

25. Within the framework of its assistance in the implementation of the Anti-Narcotics Operational Plan 2007-2010 to counter drug trafficking and organized crime in Guinea-Bissau, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to provide support for the establishment of a specialized intelligence and criminal analysis unit within the Judiciary Police. It also continued to support the Judiciary Police logistically, including by furnishing its new premises. Twenty officers from the Judiciary Police were trained in investigation techniques from mid-October to December 2009, within the framework of the partnership between the Office, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Brazilian Federal Police. Information technology and office equipment were delivered to the Ministry of Justice in November to equip criminal courts in Bissau and the regions. A meeting of international partners and national authorities was held on 11 December in Bissau to review and adapt the assistance portfolio of the Office for Guinea-Bissau. On 7 December 2009, the Office launched a new project in partnership with the Government of Brazil, aimed at establishing a training centre for Guinea-Bissau's internal security agencies to promote technical capacity-building and police integration. It is envisaged that the centre will train officers from other African Portuguese-speaking countries.

26. Representatives of the United Nations Office in West Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization conducted an assessment in Guinea-Bissau from 1 to 15 February 2010. This mission was initiated as part of the West Africa Coast Initiative and in support of the 2008-2011 ECOWAS regional action plan to fight illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse. The team undertook an evaluation of national capabilities, legal frameworks and explored the possibility of creating a transnational crime unit in Guinea-Bissau.

VI. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission

27. During the period under review, the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Peacebuilding Commission undertook the first annual progress review on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding. On 8 February 2010, the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission adopted a report on the review (PBC/4/GNB/1), which had been initially adopted by the National Peacebuilding Steering Committee on 10 December 2009. Prior to its adoption, the draft report was discussed with representatives of the international community in Guinea-Bissau, members of the National Assembly and civil society, including religious organizations. The report describes progress in implementing mutually agreed commitments and includes a set of recommendations on the next steps.

28. From 18 to 20 January 2010, a delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission visited Guinea-Bissau, led by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the

United Nations, Regina Maria Dunlop, and comprising representatives of Benin, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Uruguay, and the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations. The aim of the visit was to continue the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with the Government of Guinea-Bissau and key national and international stakeholders. The visit also allowed for a joint assessment with stakeholders of progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, the confirmation of priorities identified by the Government for the short term and discussions on the resource mobilization needs of the country, including recommendations for a second allocation of funds from the Peacebuilding Fund.

29. During its three-day visit, the delegation met with President Sanha, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and key members of the Government, as well as representatives of civil society organizations, the international community, the United Nations country team, ECOWAS, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The delegation also participated in a meeting of the National Peacebuilding Steering Committee. The conclusions of the visit were presented to the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 8 February 2010.

30. Implementation of the projects supported by the Peacebuilding Fund is on track. A project to enhance professional training and employment of youth completed the training of 240 young people on business start-ups and management in the towns of Bissau, Cacheu, Buba and Gabú. UNDP and various banking institutions are currently finalizing modalities for microcredit financing for the business projects generated by the trainees. The training of another batch of 160 young people in the towns of Bissau, Gabú, Cacheu and Quinara has started. A project to rehabilitate selected prisons in Guinea-Bissau, including regional prisons in the towns of Bafatá and Mansôa, is in progress. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is currently preparing the bidding documents for the rehabilitation of the prison in the town of Canchungo. On 10 December, the National Peacebuilding Steering Committee endorsed a reformulation of the project for the rehabilitation of military barracks. The reformulated project envisages the entire rehabilitation of three military barracks, instead of the partial rehabilitation of 10 military barracks.

VII. Economic and social aspects

31. The economic and fiscal situation in Guinea-Bissau, although fragile, showed some gains that were consolidated in the last quarter of 2009. The international financial crisis impacted on the economic growth rate, which fell by 0.4 per cent compared to 2008. However, this was offset by the record volume of cashew exports and improved performance in the construction subsector, contributing to an annual growth of 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 2009. The annual growth rate for 2010 is projected at 3.5 per cent. The improvement of fiscal policy execution allowed the Government to keep up with the payment of current salaries, primarily from internal revenues. In January 2010, the Government announced that it would clear civil service salary arrears from 2008 and part of the stock of internal debt. At the end of 2009, the country received significant budgetary support from key international partners, amounting to approximately $68 million.

32. International financial institutions continued their engagement with the authorities. A mission from IMF visited Guinea-Bissau from 5 to 18 November 2009 to assess the country's economic performance under the 2009 Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance programme, review the fiscal plans for 2010 and discuss the possibility of a medium-term arrangement with IMF. IMF subsequently dispatched another mission to Guinea-Bissau, from 12 to 27 January 2010, to conduct consultations and continue discussions on a medium-term economic programme. It was announced on 26 January that IMF and the Government had reached a preliminary agreement on a medium-term economic programme under the IMF Extended Credit Facility, which is now awaiting endorsement by the IMF Executive Board in mid-March 2010. The target for 2010 is for Guinea-Bissau to reach the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which would lead to debt relief of $700 million.

33. In October 2009, the World Bank conducted its country portfolio performance review for Guinea-Bissau. In December, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and EU concluded the public expenditure management and financial accountability review, which includes aspects related to procurement reforms. The World Bank continued to provide technical and financial support for a study on public-private partnership for the rehabilitation of the Port of Bissau. An African Development Bank mission visited Guinea-Bissau from 5 to 26 November 2009 and again from 24 to 28 January 2010 to consult with the authorities, including on the Bank's portfolio and budget support programme to the country.

34. Prices of essential goods dropped significantly as a result of lower international food and petroleum prices, as well as the Government's policy of maintaining low prices for essential commodities. Trade unions in the health and education sectors threatened to go on strike on several occasions during the reporting period, primarily to claim the payment of salary arrears. The school year began in mid-October 2009, which is an improvement as compared to previous years. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided about $750,000 worth of education supplies and materials to the Ministry of Education.

35. In order to prepare for the potential humanitarian impact of the political crisis in neighbouring Guinea, the United Nations collaborated closely with the Government in national humanitarian preparedness activities. Four joint missions to the regions bordering Guinea were conducted between October and December 2009, with the participation of the Government, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The aim of the missions was to monitor the situation, ensure national and local preparedness and enhance local capacities. In the absence of a national contingency plan, provisions for the Government were integrated in the inter-agency contingency plan in order to ensure an efficient and effective distribution of roles and responsibilities. The United Nations Office for West Africa has been providing frequent information to UNIOGBIS on the situation in Guinea to assist with the inter-agency contingency plan.

36. The United Nations is also supporting the Government in establishing a national civil protection service and a disaster risk reduction platform. A national risk assessment workshop was held in November 2009, and the United Nations country team supported the drafting of the legal framework for the national civil protection service. In addition, United Nations agencies have continued to support national epidemic preparedness, particularly for cholera, the influenza pandemic and dengue fever. In this regard, through funding from the European Commission

Humanitarian Aid department, UNICEF conducted an assessment of national early warning systems and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes to respond to potential cholera outbreaks. UNICEF also provided vaccines for the national immunization programme and equipped every health centre in the country with refrigerators operated by solar power.

VIII. Rule of law and human rights aspects

37. Parliamentarians and former Ministers who were cited in a State Information Services communiqué on 5 June 2009 for alleged involvement in a coup plot, while outside the country, returned to Bissau on 16 November and were questioned at the National Assembly by the national commission of inquiry investigating the alleged 4 to 5 June 2009 plot. The investigation has focused solely on the alleged coup and is not covering the killings of Baciro Dabó and Hélder Proença, both of whom were parliamentarians.

38. Four people, including a former Air Force Chief of Staff, General Manuel Melciades Fernandes, are still being held by the military without charge, in connection with the bomb attack that killed the late Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, General Batista Tagme Na Waie, on 1 March 2009. My Special Representative and the Special Representative of ECOWAS held further discussions with the Prime Minister in Guinea-Bissau to finalize proposals for international support to the national commissions of inquiry investigating the assassinations of President João Bernardo Vieira and General Tagme, as well as those of the former Minister of Territorial Administration, Baciro Dabó, and the former Minister of Defence, Hélder Proença, who were killed on 5 June 2009. The national authorities are expected to provide specific details on the kind of technical and financial support that is necessary to complete the investigations.

39. The Human Rights Section of UNOGBIS, in partnership with UNDP, supported the Government of Guinea-Bissau in the process of drafting the national report on human rights, which is due for consideration at the eighth session of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council, to be held in Geneva in May 2010. UNICEF provided financial and technical support for the preparation of the second periodic Government report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The alternative report by non-governmental organizations on the rights of the child in Guinea-Bissau was also prepared following a participatory process involving 12 national non-governmental organizations, consultations at the country level and the active participation of children. Both reports were sent to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on 8 December 2009.

40. Within the framework of the International Human Rights Day celebrations held on 10 December 2009, UNOGBIS, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the National Commission for Human Rights, organized several activities aimed at raising national awareness on human rights issues in Guinea-Bissau, focusing on discrimination against vulnerable groups, such as women, children, migrants and people with disabilities. In addition, UNOGBIS and UNDP supported six "Assisting communities together" projects of civil society organizations aimed at addressing the problem of female genital mutilation and child trafficking, and at encouraging the voluntary participation of civil society in human rights promotion and protection.

IX. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008)

41. From 8 to 10 December 2009, UNDP supported the organization of a workshop on leadership skills development, providing training for women parliamentarians and women civil society leaders who are members of the national Women's Political Platform.

42. On 24 and 25 November 2009, UNOGBIS supported the national Institute of Women and Children in organizing a workshop for 30 civil society organizations to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The workshop also focused on enhancing compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and promoting civil society participation in the Convention implementation process. The meeting recommended wide dissemination of the Committee report, speeding up the elaboration of the national policy on gender equality and equity and adoption of legislation against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation. The United Nations Gender Thematic Working Group is supporting the Institute of Women and Children's capacity-building process for police officers aimed at implementing national and international norms for the protection of women's human rights and the prevention of violence against women. On 17 and 18 December, 20 police officers and representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Health participated in a training course, with a view to integrating these norms in their programmes.

43. On 11 December, under the joint UNFPA/UNICEF programme to accelerate efforts to end female genital mutilation, the Institute of Women and Children presented the national strategy and action plan to put an end to female genital mutilation. UNICEF provided support to the fourth session of the Children's Parliament held on 4 and 5 December at the National Assembly, where young leaders advocated for legislation against female genital mutilation and child trafficking. UNIOGBIS and UNICEF are exploring integrated approaches to prevent and investigate the trafficking of children. In addition, the design of model police stations, as part of UNIOGBIS support to security sector reform, includes special premises to handle cases of violence against children and other vulnerable groups.

X. Staff security

44. The crime rate continued to be relatively low in the country. During the reporting period, one break-in, at the offices of the World Health Organization, was reported.

XI. Progress on integration

45. The Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support continued to collaborate closely during the period under review to ensure the smooth transition of UNOGBIS to UNIOGBIS, effective 1 January 2010. A technical task force comprising UNIOGBIS and United Nations country team staff was set up to address the substantive and operational aspects of integration, including technical and resources requirements, as well as issues related to common

services, office space and premises. A public information campaign, targeting officials, civil society organizations and the media, was launched in December 2009 to promote wider public understanding of the mission of the new integrated United Nations presence.

46. During the last quarter of 2009, preparations for the operational implementation of the new mandate were centred on policing and internal security matters within the wider context of security sector reform, a vital area that had not been fully addressed by UNOGBIS in the past because of a lack of technical and resource capacity. The United Nations standing police capacity has been assisting UNOGBIS since October 2009 and is now supporting the new Integrated Office in making available various strategic concepts, planning tools and essential regulations for internal and external purposes. This includes developing a strategic "concept of operation" and standard operating procedures for the UNIOGBIS police component of the Security Sector Reform Section, introducing to national counterparts a strategic reform framework for the policing and internal security aspects of security sector reform, initiating specific policing and internal security coordination mechanisms. It also includes implementing plans for a model police station programme nationwide, reviewing training strategies, establishing computerized learning capabilities and drafting a supplementary arrangement to the status of mission agreement on the reform of policing and internal security.

47. In order to ensure that the initial operational capabilities of the police component of the UNIOGBIS Security Sector Reform Section are reached by February 2010, an expedited selection and recruitment process for seconded international police officers will allow for at least 50 per cent of the police experts to be ready for deployment by the end of the first quarter of 2010. In January 2010, four standing police capacity experts were deployed to UNIOGBIS to support its Security Sector Reform Section.

48. The United Nations country team and UNOGBIS agreed on 23 December 2009 to develop and implement one integrated strategic framework, using the 2008-2012 United Nations Development Assistance Framework as a programmatic base and taking into account the UNIOGBIS mandate, the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and the national priorities articulated in the poverty reduction strategy paper. The strategy document, to be finalized by the end of March 2010, will be developed and based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework methodology and approach and will integrate both peacebuilding and national development priorities.

49. From 3 to 5 February 2010, a United Nations strategic planning retreat was held in Bissau to revise the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework, prepare the new integrated strategic framework and agree on its implementation and coordination structures. The retreat, which brought together the senior leadership of UNIOGBIS, the United Nations country team and representatives of the Government and international partners, reviewed progress in the implementation of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework and agreed on the following four priority objectives and actions for implementation by the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau for 2010: (a) promotion of the rule of law and security sector reform; (b) governance, democracy and political dialogue; (c) economic revitalization and poverty alleviation; and (d) the provision of basic social services and the protection of the

vulnerable. Under each of those priority areas, the United Nations system in Bissau has articulated specific outputs and indicators to measure progress.

XII. Observations

50. I am encouraged by President Sanha's and the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and promote stability in Guinea-Bissau. It is commendable that the Government has focused on the implementation of its programmes, which had been hampered by the various political and military crises that have faced Guinea-Bissau in the past decade and undermined its efforts towards economic recovery and development.

51. I also commend the Government for the important improvements in economic and fiscal management. It is encouraging that the Government has made economic and fiscal reform a national priority since economic recovery is a key component for any viable strategy to reduce instability. Recent developments signal a clear commitment and willingness on the part of international financial institutions, the Peacebuilding Commission and other international partners to collaborate with the Government of Guinea-Bissau. I am confident that continued progress, including in ongoing negotiations with IMF, will help Guinea-Bissau qualify for debt relief. I encourage the Government not to lose this momentum and to continue to work closely with its partners in order to reach the mutually agreed benchmarks.

52. Security sector reform remains the centrepiece of priority stabilization goals in Guinea-Bissau, and I am encouraged that the national authorities are taking measures to pave the way for creating the legal framework for the reforms. I urge national authorities and international partners not to lose sight of the holistic nature of security sector reform and to ensure that international assistance addresses not only defence sector needs but also the needs of the security and justice sectors. In these times of global financial crisis and competing priorities, I reiterate my earnest appeal to the international community to generously support the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to restructure and ensure the creation of a comprehensive security sector that is effective, financially sustainable and capable of meeting present and future challenges, including the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. I particularly urge that generous contributions be made to the security sector pension scheme, once established.

53. The United Nations is expanding its efforts towards reforming policing and internal security in the country. I urge all partners to join forces with the United Nations to allow the international community to "deliver as one" in this critical area.

54. President Sanha's call for change towards a culture of positive peace to replace the polarization and divisiveness that have hampered efforts to heal and rebuild Guinea-Bissau society is encouraging. I urge the Government and the National Assembly to continue to foster synergies for national dialogue with Guinea-Bissau society as a whole in order to achieve genuine and lasting reconciliation. The proposed national conference being promoted by the National Assembly could serve as a solid and inclusive platform to work towards that end. The United Nations will continue to support ongoing preparations for the conference to help ensure its success.

55. As the authorities and people of Guinea-Bissau strive to create the conditions for sustainable peace and stability in their country, they will no doubt face challenges, some of them formidable for them to overcome on their own. Guinea-Bissau will therefore continue to need the goodwill and support of the international community to achieve its peace, security and development agenda. I urge the international community to continue its support of Guinea-Bissau. The recent reinforcement of the United Nations presence in the country symbolizes the readiness of the world body to stand with Guinea-Bissau and its people in their quest for sustainable peace consolidation, including, above all, respect for the rule of law and of the human rights of all citizens. I therefore look forward to a swift resolution of the issue concerning the former Navy Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto.

56. I should like to conclude by commending the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, as well as the personnel of the entire United Nations country team and other international partners, for the important work they continue to carry out in Guinea-Bissau.

United Nations S/2010/107

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 26 February 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China in January 2010 (see annex). The document was prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Liu **Zhenmin**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

10-25752 (E) 100310

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (January 2010)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China in January 2010, the Security Council went through an extensive programme of work. During the month, the Council dealt with a wide range of regional issues, including Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, the Sudan, Afghanistan, Nepal, the Middle East, Kosovo, Haiti, peace consolidation in West Africa, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

During the month, the Security Council held 21 meetings, of which 12 were public, including a thematic debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, a debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Council held eight closed consultations of the whole and one private meeting with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council adopted four resolutions and produced one presidential statement and three statements to the press.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 January, the Council held a private meeting with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), during which the participants heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Choi Young-Jin. The briefing was followed by an exchange of views.

On 21 January, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the latest developments in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. At the consultations of the whole that followed, the Council members commended efforts made by UNOCI for promoting the proper resolution of challenges faced by Côte d'Ivoire, and called on parties concerned in Côte d'Ivoire to fully implement the Ouagadougou Agreement.

On 28 January, members of the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1911 (2010), by which it renewed the mandate of UNOCI until 31 May 2010.

Sudan

On 26 January, the Council held consultations of the whole on the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), during which the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, briefed the Council on the latest developments in the peace process in the Sudan as well as the work of UNMIS.

Members of the Council expressed their strong support for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and encouraged UNMIS and the international community to support the Sudanese parties in this regard. Some members discussed the importance of the protection of civilians, as well as for UNMIS to develop contingency plans as the April elections approach, and to begin thinking of the future United Nations presence after the referendums to be held in 2011.

Somalia

On 14 January, the Council held a public meeting and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, on the situation in Somalia. The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Ramtane Lamamra; the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States, Yahya Mahmassani; and the Permanent Representative of Somalia, Elmi Ahmed Duale; also made statements. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General stressed that the international community should overcome two main challenges in Somalia, namely, (a) the absence of concrete commitment and determined international policy and (b) the delay in translating international support into the necessary material assistance. He proposed that the international community support a common policy objective in the context of the Djibouti Peace Agreement, and that the Council send a strong and clear signal to the extremists by strengthening the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in a practical manner. He also highlighted the importance of working closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In the consultations of the whole that followed, members of the Council exchanged views on the situation in Somalia. They expressed their concern about the grave security situation in Somalia and reaffirmed their support to the work of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

On 28 January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1910 (2010), by which it extended the mandate of AMISOM until 31 January 2011 and requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide a logistical support package for AMISOM called for by resolution 1863 (2009).

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 12 January, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), Said Djinnit, on the latest developments in West Africa and the work of UNOWA. He noted that while there had been improvements in West Africa in the areas of conflict prevention, recovery and peacebuilding, a number of challenges still remained, such as election-related instability, natural disasters, security sector reform, drug trafficking and organized crimes. The Special Representative also briefed the Council on the situation in Guinea. He warned that the crisis in Guinea could spill over to the subregion if left unaddressed. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole, during which members of the Council had an exchange of views on the challenges facing the subregion and Guinea. Members of the Council expressed their concern about the situation in West Africa and Guinea. They reaffirmed their support to UNOWA to continue its active role in coordinating the

international community to provide assistance to West Africa. Members of the Council also expressed their support for the good offices of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States in Guinea, and called upon the Guinean authorities and all parties to solve the current disputes through dialogue and consultation.

Burundi

On 15 January, the Council held informal consultations and heard a briefing by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Political Affairs, Joao Honwana, on the latest developments in Burundi. Members of the Council had an exchange of views following the briefing. They commended the contribution made by the outgoing Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi and the work of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). They appreciated the important role of BINUB in supporting the electoral cycle and underlined the importance of close cooperation between Burundi and the new Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, who was still to be appointed. After the consultations of the whole, the President made a statement to the press.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 6 January, the Council held a debate on Afghanistan, during which the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Kai Eide, briefed the Council on the situation in Afghanistan.

The Secretary-General stated that Afghanistan had reached a "critical juncture" and called on the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to make the best possible use of the coming months to focus on agreed priorities, with a better international coordination structure under a United Nations umbrella that would enable the Government of Afghanistan to meet the principal needs of delivering security and services to the Afghan people and developing an economy that could gradually carry more responsibility for the people's well-being. The Secretary-General and his Special Representative expressed their appreciation for the achievements in Afghanistan, and cautioned about the challenges ahead. They noted the importance of better coordination among all parties. Members of the Council expressed their concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, and stressed the importance of the efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan in security capacity-building, and civil and economic reconstruction. They also called upon the international community to continue its support to those efforts.

Nepal

On 15 January, the Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal and Head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), Karin Landgren, briefed the Council on the latest situation in Nepal and the work of UNMIN. In the consultations of the whole that followed, members of the Council exchanged views on the peace process in Nepal. They welcomed the recent positive developments in Nepal and reiterated the need for all parties to continue their efforts to take the peace process forward and to facilitate the completion of outstanding aspects of the UNMIN mandate by 15 May 2010.

On 21 January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1909 (2010), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIN until 15 May 2010.

Europe

Kosovo

On 22 January, the Council held a debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Lamberto Zannier, briefed the Council on the situation in Kosovo and the work of UNMIK. He noted that Kosovo had largely been peaceful and stable, although tensions remained in the north. He stressed that UNMIK continued to perform its functions under resolution 1244 (1999) and its overriding objective remained ensuring lasting security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and the region. The President of Serbia, Boris Tadic, and Skender Hyseni from Kosovo made statements. Members of the Council exchanged views on the situation in Kosovo and reaffirmed their support for the work of UNMIK.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 27 January, the Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, during which the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Tarranco, briefed the Council on the recent developments in the region. He expressed concern about the lack of significant progress towards a solution to the peace process and recent events on the ground. He confirmed the Secretary-General's support for resumption of talks and his call for a freeze of settlement activity, which was echoed by the majority of delegations that addressed the Council after the briefing. The Permanent Observer of Palestine, the Permanent Representative of Israel, members of the Council and 25 other speakers addressed the Council. Most participants expressed their concern for the current impasse in the peace process and called for an early resumption of talks between the concerned parties. They also restated their grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and called for full implementation of Council resolution 1860 (2009), with many speakers stressing the need for the immediate opening of Gaza's border crossings in accordance with international humanitarian law, and the urgency of reconstruction. The majority of speakers called on Israel to end its settlement activity, including in East Jerusalem, and to refrain from all actions that might prejudge the outcome of the final negotiations. In this regard many speakers also stressed the need to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two States. Most speakers reiterated their support for a two-State solution under relevant Security Council resolutions, thus contributing to the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and Arab-Israeli conflicts, and the ultimate attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Regarding Lebanon, most members of the Council reiterated their call for a full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Americas

Haiti

On 13 January, members of the Council observed a moment of silence for the victims who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January. In a statement to the press read out by the President, members of the Council conveyed their deepest sympathy and solidarity to all those affected by the earthquake. They expressed strong support for the Government and the people of Haiti and for international efforts to assist Haiti. Council members expressed their deepest gratitude for the work of the staff and troops of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). They highly commended Member States' efforts to assist in search-and-rescue efforts and urged the international community to continue such assistance in the months ahead.

On 18 January, during urgent consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing from the Secretary-General on the situation in Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. The Secretary-General expressed deep concern about the catastrophic consequences of the earthquake and proposed an increase in the force level of MINUSTAH to support the significant recovery and stabilization efforts. Members of the Council expressed sorrow for the tragic loss of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Hédi Annabi, his deputy, Carlos Costa, and many other United Nations personnel. Council members offered their deep sympathy and solidarity to the Government and people of Haiti. They also articulated their deepest gratitude for the work of MINUSTAH and other United Nations agencies. Members of the Council welcomed the proposal by the Secretary-General and supported a strengthened MINUSTAH in the current critical situation. They urged further cooperation and coordination in assisting Haiti in its recovery and reconstruction process. After the meeting, the President of the Council delivered a statement to the press expressing the Council's support for the proposal of the Secretary-General to increase the overall level of MINUSTAH to support the immediate recovery and stability efforts in Haiti.

On 19 January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1908 (2010), by which the force level of MINUSTAH was strengthened by a total of 3,500, comprising 2,000 troops and 1,500 police.

Thematic debate

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

On 13 January, the Council held a thematic debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The Secretary-General briefed the Council on the latest cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and the conclusions of the Secretary-General's retreat with heads of regional and other organizations on 11 and 12 January 2010. Representatives of the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

the Pacific Islands Forum and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization participated in the debate and made statements. A presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/1) was adopted as the outcome of the debate, in which the Council expressed its intention to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of conflict early warning, prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and to ensure the coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts. In the statement, the Council also underlined the importance of utilizing the capabilities of regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of local disputes, including through encouraging countries in the region to resolve differences peacefully through dialogue, reconciliation, consultation, negotiation, good offices, mediation and judicial settlement of disputes.

Other matters

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

On 14 January, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Miroslav Jenca, on the work of the Centre. Members of the Council exchanged views during consultations of the whole. In a statement to the press read out by the President of the Council after the meeting, members of the Council expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Centre to assist countries of Central Asia in responding to challenges in the region, and encouraged further cooperation and coordination between the Centre and the Governments of the region and relevant regional organizations in this regard. Members of the Council also reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Centre to facilitate dialogue and assist the Governments of Central Asia on regional issues of common concern.